Missouri Department
of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks

2007 Year-End Summary

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Division of State Parks administers Missouri's state park system, which preserves the state's most outstanding natural landscapes and cultural landmarks and provides opportunities for recreation. The following are major accomplishments for 2007.

Gov. Matt Blunt encouraged the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) to work together to create a new state park along the Current River in Shannon County. The **new state park** will be created on property that was formerly the Alton Box Club/Jerry J. Presley Conservation Education Center, which was owned by MDC but will be transferred to the department. The public input process began to create a conceptual development plan for the park, which represents the return of the state park system to the Current River since 1968 when Big Spring, Alley Spring and Round Spring were transferred to the National Park Service to serve as the cornerstone of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

The division continued its look ahead to the second century of state parks with its **visioning process.** The process began with meetings and workshops with division staff and constituents and expanded in 2007 to seek input from the public. The idea behind the process is to look ahead to see what challenges and trends might be facing the state park system and how to meet these challenges.

The state park system once again received high marks for satisfaction from visitors. The results of a **visitor survey** showed that once again, 99 percent of visitors indicated they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their visit. Of this total, 68 percent said they were very satisfied with their visit. The results were based on visitor surveys at Castlewood, Meramec, Roaring River, Route 66 and Thousand Hills state parks and Felix Valle House State Historic Site.

Based on feedback gathered through guest comment cards distributed at state parks and historic sites, visitors continue to be very satisfied with their experience. **Overall visitor satisfaction** in 2007 was 97 percent, up 1 percent from 2006. A total of 2,549 guest comment cards were received from Missouri, 48 other states and eight countries.

Fifty-six **informational meetings** and open houses were held at state parks and historic sites. These meetings are held annually for each park and site to provide visitors with opportunities to have input on facilities and services. More than 3,580 people attended these meetings.

The state legislature passed and Gov. Blunt signed the **"friends" legislation.** The new legislation basically allows the division to work more closely with statewide and local non-profit groups that have state parks or historic sites as one of their main purposes. It will allow the division to negotiate mutually beneficial agreements with them to improve parks and park programs. Memorandums of Understanding were developed with Friends of Rock Bridge and Watkins Mill Association.

The new passport program, ***Trail of the Month: Passport to Health,*** encouraged everyone to explore state parks and historic sites while engaging in healthy exercise. Through the program, walkers and hikers could take advantage of the trails while earning rewards such as hiking medallions, based on the number of trails hiked. Four hundred people participated with 113 participants earning enough rewards to be eligible for the grand prize.

Through the **Volunteers in Parks (VIP)** program, 3,132 volunteers contributed 183,373 hours to the state park system. This included 339 campground hosts, who contributed 155,113 hours. The single largest volunteer event in the history of the state park system occurred May 5 when approximately 400 Boy Scouts did a volunteer service project to help restore Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park.

The state park system celebrated the 30th anniversary of the **Missouri Natural Areas Program** with special events and programs. In the past 30 years, the Missouri Natural Areas Committee has

designated 180 natural areas in 74 counties, recognizing their significant natural features. The department owns or manages 41 natural areas.

In September, the department hosted the **Midwest State Park Executives Conference** with a theme of Show-Me Missouri's Ozarks. The annual conference has been held since 1966 as a way to provide managers from Midwestern state park systems with a forum to exchange ideas and explore common issues. Representatives from 10 states attended the conference.

The department and the Audubon Society of Missouri (ASM) formed a partnership to help Missourians become more familiar with birds through the **State Parks Checklist Project (SPARKS).** ASM volunteers collect bird data for state parks and historic sites for a database that will be available on ASM and state park Web sites.

The state park system was in the middle of a controversy concerning the permitting of **concentrated animal feeding operations** (CAFOs) near Roaring River State Park and Battle of Athens and Arrow Rock state historic sites. Opponents felt the CAFOs should not be permitted because of potential affects, especially odor, on the park and sites. The department's Water Protection Program, which is responsible for issuing the permits, only has statutory authority to ensure the permit application complies with Missouri water quality laws, and must issue the permit if the application complies.

In 2007, 499 campers received **Missouri Camper Awards** for camping in five Missouri state park campgrounds during the calendar year. Of those, 126 were for first-year awards; two received 15-year awards; and Larry and Phyllis Moore of Marshall were the first to receive a 30-year award.

The **WOW Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Schools** continued to grow in popularity. These include the schools in St. Louis and Kansas City, which are designed to reach people who have little knowledge of outdoor skills. More than 300 people attended these two schools. The traditional WOW at Roaring River State Park for people with more experience had 240 participants.

Three-hundred and thirty-two people from 27 states participated in the seventh annual **Katy Trail Ride** in June. This year, in addition to the Missouri State Parks Foundation as a co-sponsor, Toyota served as a corporate sponsor.

The Find the Director segment of the electronic newsletter **Missouri State Parks eFriends** became very popular. Each month, participants were asked to identify where the photo of the state park director was taken. Each month's winner received two free nights camping. More than 1,090 entries were submitted.

The park system sponsored **56 special events,** which included 15,955 participants and 62,208 spectators. This included the Battle of Pilot Knob Civil War re-enactment at Fort Davidson State Historic Site, which drew 25,000 spectators and 700 re-enactors plus 48 vendors.

To reach regular park users and attract new visitors, the division **staffed exhibits** at 10 trade shows, including ones in Kansas City, St. Louis, Springfield, St. Joseph and Columbia. Other shows included the Missouri State Teachers Association, Missouri Parks and Recreation Association, Equine Council Show and Missouri Press Association.

The year marked the fifth year for the **centralized campground reservation** system and the system continues to grow. More than 61,000 sites/units were reserved in 2007, which is up by more than 4,500 from 2006. In 2007, 57 campsites at Long Branch State Park were added to the system, but the 52 reservable campsites at Johnson's Shut-Ins were unavailable again this year. According to guest comment cards, there was an 84 percent satisfaction level with the reservation system.

The division's **Web site** increased more than 400 pages to 6,629 pages and received more than 13 million hits. In an effort to provide a more interactive representation of exhibits, audio files, photos and graphics from an exhibit on slavery in the Missouri State Museum were added to the Web site.

The public could **receive information** through e-mail and mail requests and the division's toll free number. The division responded to more than 2,393 e-mail requests and more than 210 written requests for information. The division received 45,785 automated toll free calls and responded to 15,708 operated-assisted toll-free calls. The division received and responded to more than 5,000 e-mails.

Gross sales for **merchandise** sold in state parks and historic sites was more than $450,000. The online park store with credit card/debit card capabilities became operational.

Concessions (privately owned businesses that contract to operate facilities in state parks) generated more than $13.2 million in gross sales in 2007. This generated more than $1.1 million in return to the state.

Interpretive contacts by staff through programs and other venues reached almost 1,584,000.

Work continued on **general management plans,** which include various chapters that guide all aspects of the park or site. Nine cultural resource management plans have been completed and 12 more are in the process. Twenty-three natural resource management plans have been completed and 20 more are in the process. Twenty-three interpretive plans are completed and 17 more are in the process.

Twenty-five communities received $755,000 in **federal grants** to assist with park and recreation needs through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Sixteen projects for trail-related construction and maintenance received approximately $1.1 million through the federal Recreational Trails Program.

Staff participated in the development of a statewide interagency **Missouri Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan** that will be used to deal with the possible infection of ash trees by this destructive insect.

Development progressed on a **Natural Areas Database,** an interagency project of the Missouri Natural Areas Committee to produce a statewide database of Missouri's natural areas.

A total of 96,493 artifact records were entered into the **artifact database**. This is 48.2 percent of the estimated 200,000 objects in the artifact collection. Artifacts once stored in central office and other facilities were moved into the new curatorial building.

A major project to integrate, rehouse, organize and index documents in the **division's archives** was completed. The project provides the section and the division with intellectual and physical control over the majority of the archives.

The **Cultural Resource Fund** supported the conservation or assessment of 19 objects in Fiscal Year 2007. So far in Fiscal Year 2008, seven object assessments or treatments are under way and 22 more are scheduled to be finished by June 2008. Fiscal Year 2008 projects include conservation of maquettes (small models) used by Thomas Hart Benton for several of his two-dimensional works and the assessment of a historic photograph of an old mill at Roaring River State Park.

Following vandalism to the petroglyphs at **Washington State Park,** a conservation contract was awarded for the appropriate restoration and work of the significant resource.

A flag conservation room was completed in the Union Hotel at Jefferson Landing State Historic Site. Staff also completed a hanging system for storage of framed flags. Three **Civil War flags** were conserved and one additional flag was framed.

The Missouri State Museum and Jefferson Landing State Historic Site received an institutional assessment through the **Museum Assessment Program,** which reinforced the major areas of concern for the museum and recognized staff progress. The facilities also received a conservation assessment through the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Heritage Preservation, which produced an architectural report for the site.

The **Missouri State Museum** opened several new exhibits, including an exhibit that used Missouri slave narratives and one on the history of the former Missouri State Penitentiary. A new Missouri Veterans Gallery was developed to recognize Missourians for their service.

The final report for the **Missouri Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission** was completed. The Missouri Lewis and Clark Network, a citizen-based group that will continue projects and activities developed during the bicentennial, was formed.

A sculpture of the **Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery** was dedicated in the Lewis and Clark State Office Building in Jefferson City. The sculpture is a 4-foot tall model of the original sculpture located in Kansas City. The statue memorializes explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark as well as Sacagawea, York, Clark's slave, and Seaman, Lewis' Newfoundland dog. The Missouri State Parks

Foundation purchased the model with funds donated by The William T. Kemper Foundation of Kansas City.

At Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park, staff offered programs in natural history and outdoor recreation to **inner city groups.** Approximately 1,000 children from 20 different groups participated in the free program from June through August.

As part of the wetland restoration effort at Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park, 124 **local school children planted 900 trees.** Fifty additional trees as well as three varieties of native grasses were planted by staff.

Show-Me MO State Parks Summer Experience Camp was held in the St. Louis area during June. The weeklong program introduced 19 children to various outdoor recreation opportunities and included visits to area state parks and historic sites.

Learn to Camp program was held as a follow up to the WOW St. Louis. Three families with three to four members each attended two sessions at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park.

Friends groups continued to support various state parks and historic sites. These include donations from the Watkins Mill Association, a co-sponsorship of a teacher's workshop by the Friends of Arrow Rock, special events and programs by the Friends of the Anderson House, special events by the Friends of Athens, and a donation campaign by the Pershing Park Memorial Association to build a new museum at Gen. John J. Pershing Boyhood Home State Historic Site.

Staff from **Van Meter State Park** and the Governor's Ombudsman to Tribal Councils continued to visit and communicate with the nine tribal nations that will be the focus of Missouri's American Indian Cultural Center at the park.

The state parks version of the World Series has been under way at Watkins Woolen Mill State Park and Historic Site. The Watkins Mill Warpers and the Walnut Hill Bluestockings from the Living History Farm in Des Moines, Iowa, have been playing **historic 19th century town ball,** a predecessor to today's modern game.

Staff became engaged in an effort to link historic sites and museums in western Missouri and eastern Kansas into **Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area** through the National Park Service. This may help with commemoration activities for the 15th anniversary of the Civil War that begins in 2011.

Battle of Lexington State Historic Site hosted its first **satellite feed link up tour** with a school in the St. Louis area. Students were able to view the site through a lens and staff was able to speak live to the students and answer questions.

U.S. Rep. Ike Skelton has introduced legislation to fund a study by the National Park Service to determine if **Harry S Truman Birthplace State Historic Site** should be part of the National Park Service.

In-service training of staff continued to be a priority. Almost 1,350 staff attended 26 inhouse training sessions ranging from leadership and listening skills to CPR and workplace violence.

Appropriate division staff completed NIMS **(National Incident Management System)** training. NIMS was developed by the federal government to ensure a standardized nationwide response to natural disasters and homeland defense incidents.

Staff at **Scott Joplin House State Historic Site** continue to work with two SLINGS (St. Louis in Gear for Success) grants from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. One grant is being used by the volunteer Neighborhood Advisory Committee on a brochure designed to welcome people to the neighborhood and inform them of the significance of the area as well as a project for a small exhibit. The other grant is being used for teacher workshops and preparing for the upcoming year of excavations at the site.

The division took over the responsibility of running the concession operation at **Long Branch State Park.** A new structure to sell gas and beverages is being planned for the marina and should be available for the 2008 season.

Civil War markers were installed and dedicated at Cape Girardeau and Palmyra. Work continued on signs for four other locations.

Discussions continued with staff from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop designs and technology that will continue to allow some type of riding on the sand flats at **St. Joe State Park.**

New exhibits were set up in Gallery 1 and several temporary exhibits were on display at **Missouri Mines State Historic Site.**

Approximately **900 acres** was added to the state park system through acquisition or leases of land adjacent to current state parks and historic sites. Notable transactions include the acquisition of 21 acres adjacent to Washington State Park for access to a sensitive glade area, and a management lease with The Nature Conservancy for 750 acres adjacent to Montauk State Park.

Twenty-seven applications for **scientific research** in state parks were received and processed. In addition, park staff did a turtle survey at Big Oak Tree State Park and a butterfly survey at Big Oak Tree State Park and Towosahgy State Historic Site.

As a part of **ongoing stewardship** in the state park system, prescribed fires were conducted on more than 6,000 acres.

New exhibits were installed or current exhibits were updated or replaced at numerous sites, including Van Meter, Graham Cave, Montauk, Ha Ha Tonka and Katy Trail state parks and Battle of Athens, Battle of Lexington and Scott Joplin House state historic sites. Major projects included a new interpretive flag plaza at Confederate Memorial State Historic Site.

A **Leave No Trace** training initiative was developed in partnership with Show-Me Missouri Backcountry Horsemen.

Spill prevention control and countermeasure plans were completed for all regulated state park fuel storage facilities and training was conducted in cooperation with department and local emergency responders.

2007 Major Improvement Projects

During 2007, many significant improvement and construction projects were accomplished within the state park system. Many were visible to the public while others included infrastructure projects to help protect the environment and provide a better overall service to the public. The following are some of the major highlights.

Campground Improvements

The effort to upgrade campgrounds continued in 2007. These efforts included increasing the number of electrical campsites, upgrading existing electrical sites and renovating or adding showerhouses and restrooms. The upgrades are part of an effort to provide facilities requested by campers.

- Four camper cabins were added to the campground at **Lake Wappapello State Park.**
- The second half of campground #1 at **Bennett Spring State Park** was completely renovated with new full-hookup campsites, roads, restroom and dump station.
- Upgrades to **electrical campsites** were completed at Meramec, Table Rock, Sam A. Baker, Wakonda and Harry S Truman state parks.
- Six walk-in campsites were developed along the lake at **Stockton State Park.**

The handrail renovation project in Onondaga Cave at **Onondaga Cave State Park** was completed. The new stainless steel handrail will ensure the cave meets current state regulations for cave safety while protecting the sensitive environment of the cave.

New precast **restroom/shower facilities** were installed at Bennett Spring, Sam A. Baker, Lewis and Clark, Weston Bend, Thousand Hills, Wakonda, Watkins Mill, Onondaga Cave and Katy Trail state parks and Mastodon State Historic Site. A flush toilet was installed at Mastodon State Historic Site and two new accessible vault toilets were installed at Dillard Mill State Historic Site.

As a part of **ongoing maintenance,** numerous buildings throughout the state park system were painted, repaired or remodeled and roofs were replaced. Projects were completed at Big Oak Tree, Meramec, Dr. Edmund A. Babler, Finger Lakes, Thousand Hills, Mark Twain, Ha Ha Tonka, Roaring River, Lake of the Ozarks, Rock Bridge Memorial and Graham Cave state parks, and Scott Joplin House, Arrow Rock, Hunter-Dawson, Nathan Boone Homestead, Harry S Truman Birthplace, Felix Valle House and Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio state historic sites.

Water system improvements were completed at Lake of the Ozarks, Route 66, Sam A. Baker and Harry S Truman state parks.

Wastewater system improvements were completed at Mastodon State Historic Site and Mark Twain, Table Rock, Roaring River and Lake Wappapello state parks.

Fire protection systems were installed at Locust Creek Covered Bridge, Union Covered Bridge and Bollinger Mill state historic sites.

Design and engineering work continued on extending **Katy Trail State Park** from St. Charles to Machens following an agreement reached with the Consolidated North Levee District for an easement that will allow the trail to be built around a large scout hole.

The Museum Annex at **Mastodon State Historic Site** was completed as a facility for further interpretation with rotating exhibits and a hands-on learning area for children.

Planning is under way for **fish-cleaning stations** at Montauk and Bennett Spring state parks.

Numerous parks and sites were impacted by **natural events** that required extensive clean up and repair. These included major ice storms during January and December and flooding during the summer.

The division continued transitioning to the new statewide requirement from LABS (Land and Building Systems) to VFA **(Visual Facility Assessment)** for park structures. Field assessments of nearly 2,000 structures in the state park system were completed and this has resulted in prioritized requirements for maintenance, repair or replacement.

A **new maintenance journal system** was fully implemented. This new system tracks all maintenance, repair and replacement activities as well as project future work lists and cyclical maintenance actions in the state park system.

Cabins and lodging facilities were repaired or remodeled at Bennett Spring, Sam A. Baker, Meramec, Roaring River and Lake of the Ozarks state parks.

A **solar-powered horse watering facility** was installed along the equestrian trail at Cuivre River State Park.

Crews began work on an innovative project to build a staircase from the campground to the swimming lake at **Cuivre River State Park.** This new staircase provides a direct walkway over very steep and rugged terrain.

The first phase of a project to prevent diversion of water from Locust Creek to Higgins Ditch was completed at **Pershing State Park**.

Offices were remodeled at Rock Bridge Memorial and Graham Cave state parks and Scott Joplin House State Historic Site to provide a better service area for staff.

Starboard Corp., concessionaires at **Table Rock State Park**, completed an upgrade project at the park for more than $1.5 million. This included preparing parking lots for asphalting, water line improvements, addition of docks, electrical, ramps and anchoring.

Maneka Corp., concessionaires at **Stockton State Park**, transformed the food service operation from a dining lodge, which was state property, to the marina, which is owned by the concessionaire. This has saved the state thousands of dollars in repairs and maintenance on the former dining lodge. The concessionaire is also involved in an upgrade of the sewer-lift station project at the marina.

Plans were developed for a new marina store at **Long Branch State Park.** The new store will be part of the concession operation operated by the park.

A new picnic area with new picnic pads, a precast vault toilet and new trail parking were constructed at **Weston Bend State Park.**

The plaster was repaired and replaced on the walls of the historic home at **Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site**.

A new upper parking area was developed at **Ozark Caverns** at Lake of the Ozarks State Park to improve access and traffic flow. A new well and well house were also added.

At **Roaring River State Park,** the tree removal/replacement project continued. Old trees were removed due to poor health and new trees are being added at a rate of about 200 each year.

The main picnic area and river access parking lot were expanded at **Castlewood State Park.** The project resulted in increased parking capacity and a better flow of traffic through the parking lot.

A management agreement was reached with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for restoration of 515 acres of property at **Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park** as part of the Missouri River Recovery Program.

Staff at **First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site** began planning a project with the local Master Gardeners club that will include more accurate 1820s plantings, including small trees, shrubs, vegetables and herbs.

At **St. Joe State Park,** an off-road-vehicle rinse station was completed with partial funding from a Recreational Trails Program grant.

Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park

During 2007, work continued on the cleanup and restoration of Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park following the December 2005 breach of the Taum Sauk reservoir that damaged the main use area of the park.

The main portion of the **stream restoration** project for the East Fork of the Black River through the park was completed in April. The plan was designed to help stabilize the stream banks, prevent erosion, reduce in-stream sediment and protect natural features in the park. Additional **cleanup work** included sediment removal from the boulder field area, cleanup in the scour channel and debris removal in the shut-ins.

Design and engineering work continued on the park's long-term **redevelopment plan**, which had been approved following public input.

On May 5, approximately 400 Boy Scouts and leaders did a **volunteer service project** in the park. They planted 4,000 trees and shrubs to help stabilize the stream bank, removed cottonwood sprouts in the park's fen, and picked up rocks in the scour channel along with other projects. The volunteer project totaled 2,800 hours of service, making it the largest volunteer effort in the history of the state park system.

Following the removal of 180,000 tons of rock from the shut-ins, the park was opened to the public on a limited basis from **July 2 through Sept. 4**. Visitors were able to swim in the shut-ins, picnic and visit the park store. The rest of the park was closed as work continued. Visitation during that time was 44,754.

On Nov. 27, 2007, the state of Missouri reached a **settlement agreement** with AmerenUE over the Taum Sauk reservoir breach. The total settlement package represents a value of $179,750,000. The total includes credit for work already done by Ameren and funds to the local community as well as various agencies including the Department of Natural Resources. Part of the agreement stipulates that AmerenUE will rebuild and restore Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park at a value of $52 million. Another part of the agreement gives the department a license to build a trail alongside the old Rock Island Railroad from Windsor to Pleasant Hill, which will allow a connection from Katy Trail State Park into the Kansas City area. A portion of the department's settlement funds has been earmarked to help develop the new

state park along the Current River in Shannon County. Development for these two new recreational opportunities is to assist with compensation for the recreational opportunities lost and natural resource damages at Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park.

State Historic Preservation Office

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) helps identify, evaluate and protect Missouri's cultural resources. Accomplishments in 2007 include the following:

Missouri Heritage Properties Program -- During the year, the groundwork was laid for the Missouri Heritage Properties Program, a new state initiative to provide funding to assist in the preservation of historically significant publicly owned buildings. The first round of grants will target historic courthouses and will make $500,000 dollars available in the form of grants. The deadline for submittal was Nov. 30 and the grants will be announced in January 2008. Funding for this program comes from the Non-Resident Athletes and Entertainers Tax. The department believes the response to this initial round of grants will confirm the need for this program and that it will continue and be expanded in future years.

Tax Credits -- This year marks the 10th anniversary of the creation of Missouri's 25 percent state rehabilitation tax credit. Since the bill was enacted, there has been a significant private investment in the state as a result of state credits. Last year, 248 projects were completed using the state credits and total private investment leveraged by the credits exceeded $901 million. Since the program began 10 years ago, more than 1,100 buildings have been rehabilitated and the total invested in Missouri tax-leveraged projects in the 10-year period now exceeds $3.2 billion.

Missouri continued to be very active in using the federal rehabilitation tax credits. Last year, (Federal FY' 2006) Missouri ranked number one in the nation in terms of preliminary certifications with 185 projects approved. Missouri ranked third in the nation in terms of the number of certified (completed) projects with 99 projects completed. Those 99 projects resulted in certified expenses equaling $287,426,419.00. That was the second highest dollar amount invested among the 50 states.

National Register of Historic Places -- Fueled largely by the historic preservation tax credits, the program continued to see increased activity in the National Register of Historic Places program. Last year, 84 new listings representing 727 individual properties were added to the National Register. SHPO was able to increase staffing in the program's Survey and Registration team through the hiring of a new survey coordinator, a position that had previously been lost because of budget cutbacks.

Inventory -- One project that has been underway for several years is an effort to scan and digitize the inventory records and files. A major focus in the last year has been the creation of a Geographic Information System (GIS) layer for the storage of information related to cultural resources. This effort will increase the ability of agencies and planners to have information on sites early in the planning process. This has been a cooperative effort with the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). Several other agencies, such as the USDA Forest Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have also become partners in the effort. This will be a tremendous tool for agencies with Section 106 responsibilities.

Certified Local Government Program -- The Certified Local Government (CLG) program continues to grow. The program continues to host training by way of the annual CLG Forum, which is held each year for local commissioners and staff. This year, a second mini-forum was added for specialized staff training for CLG communities with full or part-time staff. Missouri now has 43 Certified Local Governments.

Native American Issues -- With assistance from National Park Service through a NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act), SHPO hosted its first Native American Workshop in Springfield in June. The three-day meeting brought together 16 tribes and 12 federal and state agencies to discuss common issues and concerns.

Awards and Recognitions in 2007

Many individuals and groups received awards or were recognized in some way during 2007.

Denny Bopp, field operations supervisor for the Ozarks District, was named the Missouri Department of Natural Resources February 2007 **Employee of the Month**.

Ronald D. Jeffreys, a park maintenance worker at Prairie State Park, was named the Missouri Department of Natural Resources March 2007 **Employee of the Month**.

Agnes Lashley, a senior office support assistant with Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park, Taum Sauk Mountain State Park and Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry, was named the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' June 2007 **Employee of the Month**.

Laura Hendrickson, natural resource manager at Pomme de Terre State Park, was named **Employee of the Month** for September by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and **State Employee of the Month** for October.

Russell A. "Rusty" Burge, a parks maintenance worker at Big Lake State Park, was named **Employee of the Month** for November 2007 by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

The Missouri Park Association (MPA) recognized four employees with **Employee of the Year Awards**: Brian Stith, St. Louis Area Office, was the field employee; Kimberly Burfield, Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park, was the facility manager employee; Gary Plymell, Ha Ha Tonka State Park, was the maintenance/construction employee; and Mary Stieferman, Financial and Information Resource Management Program, was the central office employee.

The following individuals were honored with the department's **Division of State Parks Masterpiece Awards** in the year 2007. Spring awards were presented to the following: Denny Bopp, Ozarks District Office; Jeff Higgins and Ben Graves, Pershing State Park; Eric Fuemmeler, Van Meter State Park; Sue Love, First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site; Gary "Joe" Tripp and Kevin Cheaney, Fort Davidson State Historic Site; Jerry Gideon, Mike Hedrick, Calvin Brad Johnston, Raymond Lake, Gerald Phillips, Danny Prier, David Rash, Larry Waterman, David Weaver, Roy Heimbeaugh, Fred Weisenborn and Lee Robinson, South Construction Unit; Leon Mahurin, Dennis Melancon, Jonathan Elkins, Diana Conner, Gary Swearingen, Mary Melancon, Sharon Hopkins and Teddy Poe, Roaring River State Park; Dawn Fredrickson, Planning and Development Program; Danny Jaco, State Park Ranger Program; and Richard White and Tim Hennessy, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park.

Fall Masterpiece Award winners follow: Laura Hendrickson, Pomme de Terre State Park; Lori Williams, Knob Noster State Park; Michael Parks, Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site; Lloyd (Lee) Petsel, Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park; Allison Vaughn, Big Oak Tree State Park; Chad Hovis, Martin Adams, William Huff, Marty Yount, Carl Clubb, Annette Henson, William Glore, Jerry Carr and Perry Barker, Jr., Eastern Construction Unit; Angie Even, Facility and Visitor Services Program; Perry Legg, Pomme de Terre State Park; Michael Stephens, David Johnson and Donald Wissmann, Onondaga Cave State Park; and Randal Clark, Rock Bridge Memorial State Park.

The video **"**Scott Joplin: King of Ragtime" won a **2006 Communicator Award of Excellence** in the museum category.

"Belle," the children's book developed for Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site, received third place in the **National Association of Interpretation's Media Awards** category. The book was authored by Dakota Russell, the site's interpretive resource specialist, and was illustrated by John Tate, a site volunteer.

Greta Marshall, Confederate Memorial State Historic Site, was selected into the 47th Seminar for Historical Administration offered through the American Association for State and Local History.

Mike Dickey, Arrow Rock State Historic Site, received a 2006 Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History for his book *Arrow Rock: Cross Road of the Missouri Frontier.*

Jim Baker, Felix Valle House State Historic Site, received the 1006 Distinguished Service Award from the Foundation for the Restoration of Ste. Genevieve.

Christy Hubinsky, seasonal naturalist at Table Rock State Park, received the 2007 Distinguished Interpreter of the Year Award – Seasonal Category at the annual Association of Missouri Interpreters conference.

2007 Summary

Number of Sites: 83 state parks and historic sites and the Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry
Number of Acres: 142,202 acres in parks and sites and 61,000 acres in Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry
Visitation: 15,744,046
Employment: 617.85 classified employees and 114.11 seasonals

Financial Information for Fiscal Year 2007

- Total operation and capital improvement expenditures (less fringe benefits) $40,805,700
- Revenues from operations - $7,550,102
- Revenues from dedicated sales tax - $43,183,890

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DIVISION OF STATE PARKS ACREAGE
DEC. 31, 2007

STATE PARKS – 49

STATE PARK	ACRES
Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial	2,441.00
Sam A. Baker	5,323.62
Bennett Spring	3,216.74
Big Lake	407.41
Big Oak Tree	1,028.68
Big Sugar Creek	2,082.54
Castlewood	1,818.77
Crowder	1,912.10
Cuivre River	6,393.94
Elephant Rocks	131.74
Finger Lakes	1,128.69
Graham Cave	386.13
Grand Gulf	321.96
Ha Ha Tonka	3,709.74
Hawn	4,953.66
Johnson's Shut-Ins	8,646.51
Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones – Confluence Point	1,121.43
Katy Trail	2,935.60
Knob Noster	3,934.38
Lake of the Ozarks	17,626.55
Lake Wappapello	1,854.23
Lewis and Clark	189.13
Long Branch	1,828.47
Meramec	6,896.33
Montauk	2,158.12
Morris	161.22
Onondaga Cave	1,317.70
Pershing	3,565.66
Pomme de Terre	734.44
Prairie	3,942.00
Roaring River	4,093.38
Robertsville	1,224.65
Rock Bridge Memorial	2,272.83
Route 66	418.61
St. Francois	2,734.97
St. Joe	8,242.98
Stockton	2,175.90
Table Rock	356.03
Taum Sauk Mountain	7,501.09
Thousand Hills	3,079.70
Trail of Tears	3,415.39
Harry S Truman	1,440.00
Mark Twain	2,775.14
Van Meter	1,104.63
Wakonda	1,053.87
Wallace	501.61
Washington	2,157.57
Watkins Woolen Mill	876.22
Weston Bend	1,133.08
SUBTOTAL	**138,726.14**

STATE HISTORIC SITES – 34

STATE HISTORIC SITE	ACRES
Arrow Rock	167.39
Battle of Athens	408.50
Battle of Carthage	7.40
Battle of Lexington	92.25
Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio	0.32
Bollinger Mill	43.00
Nathan Boone Homestead	400.20
Boone's Lick	51.17
Bothwell Lodge	246.91
Clark's Hill/Norton	13.40
Confederate Memorial	135.22
Deutschheim	0.69
Dillard Mill	131.77
Dunklin's Grave	1.37
First Missouri State Capitol	0.66
Fort Davidson	77.19
Hunter-Dawson	19.80
Iliniwek Village	127.49
Jefferson Landing	1.27
Jewell Cemetery	0.45
Scott Joplin House	3.86
Locust Creek Covered Bridge	32.22
Mastodon	431.14
Missouri Mines	25.00
Osage Village	100.00
Gen. John J. Pershing Boyhood Home	2.69
Sandy Creek Covered Bridge	205.78
Sappington Cemetery	2.00
Towosahgy	64.00
Harry S Truman Birthplace	2.51
Mark Twain Birthplace	13.00
Union Covered Bridge	1.24
Felix Vallé House	11.73
Watkins Woolen Mill	624.00
SUBTOTAL	**3,445.62**

OTHER FACILITIES – 5

FACILITY	ACRES
Brookfield District Office	7.46
Festus District Office	8.67
Lebanon District Office	10.00
Boonville District Office	2.06
Capitol Complex	2.27
SUBTOTAL	**30.46**

SUBTOTAL	**142,202.22**
Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry	61,000.00
TOTAL ACRES	**203,202.22**